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RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC 0822
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SUBJECT: KAZAKHSTAN: MEDIA REPORTS ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING CASES FOR
JANUARY 2009

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¶1. The following is a summary of local media reports of human
trafficking cases in Kazakhstan for January 2009.

UNDERCOVER OPERATIONS

¶2. January 27, Interfax, Aikyn: Two businesswomen attempting to
recruit women from Kyzylorda to work as prostitutes in Astana were
arrested by undercover police at the Kyzylorda train station. The
women offered \$400 to each victim and promised clothing and
apartments upon arrival in the capital. The women have been charged
with human trafficking.

TRAFFICKING IN MINORS AND A MISSING ORPHAN

¶3. January 12, Interfax (with information from Azattyk newspaper):
The Ministry of Interior (MVD) Press Service announced that Dr.
Zhanibek Kusaliyev, the head of the maternity hospital in Atyrau,
was arrested on January 8 for attempting to sell an infant for
\$4,000. During the arrest, police found \$1,900, believed to be a
deposit, and the infant's medical records. Kusaliyev was charged
with trafficking in minors and is in jail while the investigation
proceeds.

¶4. The independent newspaper Azattyk reported that the infant in
question was abandoned. A 26-year old woman asked Dr. Kusaliyev
about buying a baby to avoid the bureaucratic procedures of an
adoption. Kusaliyev, who was also a businessmen and a member of the
Atyrau maslikhat (city council), told the paper that his arrest was
nothing more than a police reprisal. He declared the trafficking
charges against him "dead" and nearly impossible to prove. He
denied selling a baby and said that he had only helped a childless
woman, giving the baby to her rather than to an orphanage. He
claimed that the only thing received from the woman were flowers.
In reporting the story, the newspaper provided information from
"unofficial sources" that male infants cost up to \$5,000 and females
cost up to \$3,000.

¶5. January 14 and 16, Liter and Aikyn: Prosecutors in Almaty are
investigating alleged adoption violations at the Otegen Baryr
village orphanage after a female infant transferred to another
orphanage in Dzhambyl oblast never arrived. When the records were

checked, police found that not all adoption rules were being followed and that some dates were inaccurate.

DISABLED UZBEK MIGRANTS FORCED TO BEG?

¶6. January 22, Era TV: Uzbeks are being forced to beg in Astana. A recruiter, also from Uzbekistan, has "employed" illegal Uzbek migrants for almost four years to beg for cash. A 70-year-old disabled man working for the recruiter claimed that the recruiter was also a victim because she needs money to pay for her sister's medical care. The director of Kazakhstan's International Human Rights Bureau NGO commented that this is a crime under the trafficking in persons article (128) of the criminal code. The recruiter is confident that she is not doing anything wrong, but rather is helping her compatriots to survive. The migration police are aware of the case, but do not yet have sufficient evidence to file criminal charges.

STRICTER MIGRATION CONTROLS AND ILLEGAL LABOR

¶7. January 26, Interfax: In 2008, Kazakhstan deported 17,000 labor migrants for violations of migration law. More than 1.3 million labor migrants entered Kazakhstan in 2008, which is half the number recorded in 2007. However, the Ministry of Internal Affairs reported that the number of people violating migration law did not decrease. Administrative charges were brought against almost 136,000 foreigners and 2,000 employers for illegal use of foreign labor.

¶8. January 26, Khabar: The Ministry of Internal Affairs (MVD) conducted operations looking for illegal migrants. During inspections of construction sites in Astana, police found 2,500 illegal labor migrants; they are to be deported. (NOTE: There was no indication from the article whether police interviewed the illegal migrants to determine if any were victims of trafficking. END NOTE.)

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¶9. January 27, Azattyk Radiosy: According to independent observers, migrants making \$300-\$400 monthly salaries do not fairly compete with local citizens in the labor market. Kazakhstanis will not work for the \$10 dollars a day, though migrants from Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan are willing to do so.

¶10. January 27, AKIpress: The Ministry of Labor and Social Protection reported that the quota for foreign labor will be cut in half in order to protect the domestic labor market.

¶11. January 28, Channel 31 TV: Prime Minister Masimov said that migrants contribute to the growth of crime and unemployment. Many construction sites where migrants worked have been shut down and unemployed migrants are turning to a life of crime. He added that with the increased number of unemployed Kazakhstanis, it is not reasonable to allow unemployed labor migrants to stay in the country. Masimov announced that he instructed the Cabinet of Ministers to enforce migration control measures. In particular, he ordered illegal migrants to be deported as well as the resumption of the issuance of temporary residency permits to foreigners. (NOTE: Foreigners had previously been permitted to stay in Kazakhstan based on their identification cards. END NOTE.)

HOAGLAND